AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of scheduling a transaction request to a central processing unit in a computing system, comprising the steps of,

for a transaction request, polling at least one central processing unit to determine the current load on the at least one central processing unit;

if the current load is below a predetermined threshold, allocating the transaction request to one of the at least one central processing unit; or

if the current load is above the predetermined threshold, delaying execution of the transaction request for a predetermined time delay, or until polling determines that the load is below the predetermined threshold,

wherein said polling, allocating, and delaying steps are performed on at least one particular machine, said at least one particular machine comprising at least one physical computing device.

2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, comprising the further step of polling at defined time intervals to determine the system load.

3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein polling continues until the current load drops below the predetermined threshold, at which time the transaction request is allocated.

4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the predetermined threshold is achieved when the at least one of a plurality of CPU's becomes idle.

5. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the predetermined time delay ~~does not exceed 1000 milliseconds~~ is chosen such that an end user cannot determine any perceptible change in response time.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the predetermined time delay does not exceed 500 milliseconds.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the predetermined time delay is in the order of one to fifteen time slice intervals.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for scheduling an incoming transaction to a central processing unit in a computing system, comprising:

    a scheduling computer for scheduling a transaction, the scheduling computer ~~polling means arranged to~~, on receipt of a transaction request, polling ~~poll~~ at least one ~~once~~ central processing unit to obtain a value for the central processing unit load:~~[[,]]~~

    a predetermined threshold stored on the scheduling computer, wherein the scheduling computer compares the predetermined threshold to the central processing unit load,

      wherein the scheduling computer ~~comparison means arranged to~~,

        if the current load is below the ~~a~~ predetermined threshold, allocates ~~allocate~~ the transaction request to one of the at least one central processing unit,

        if the current load is above the predetermined threshold, delays ~~delay~~ execution of the transaction request for a predetermined time period.

9. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the scheduling computer ~~polling means~~ is arranged to continue to poll at defined time intervals to determine the system load.

10. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the scheduling computer ~~comprising allocation means which~~ is arranged to allocate the transaction when the scheduling computer ~~comparison means~~ determines that the current load has dropped below the predetermined threshold.

11. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 10, wherein the predetermined threshold is achieved when the at least one of a plurality of CPU's becomes idle.

12. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the predetermined time delay does not exceed 1000 milliseconds ~~is chosen such that an end user cannot determine any perceptible change in response time~~.

13. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the predetermined time delay does not exceed 500 milliseconds.

14. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the predetermined time delay is in the order of one to fifteen time slice intervals.

15. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, furthering comprising the step of:

executing at least one transaction ~~computer program arranged, when loaded~~ on a computing system, to implement the method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein execution of said at least one transaction performs any one of the polling, allocating, and delaying steps.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium providing computer-executable instructions ~~a computer program~~ in accordance with claim 15, wherein said computer-executable instructions implement the polling, allocating, and delaying steps.